Celebrity Buzz

Richie wants baby No. 2

pg 14

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OTTAWA • WEEKEND, JANUARY 2-4, 2009 metronews.ca

Movies pg 10

3-D breaking out with new films

Hotel guests ousted by fire

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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The fire alarm woke Francois Mayville in his second floor room at the Radisson Hotel around 8 a.m. Thursday morning.

Like most people, the Montreal resident had stayed up to ring in the new year and he wanted to sleep in a little.

But the heat in the room and smoke pouring in from under the door forced him to the hallway, where he was met with a wall of thick black smoke.

Mayville tried the window. It would only crack a few inches.

So he picked up a chair and tried to smash it. The chair bounced back.

"I thought, 'Oh, no. I'm in trouble now, but I can't stay in here. It has to break,'" Mayville said.

A second attempt sent the chair smashing through the window, allowing him to escape onto the roof of the hotel restaurant.

From that location, he could access three other rooms. Using the chair, he smashed the windows and helped three other people out of their rooms, including Mike McDonald and Lindsay MacLaren of Burlington.

"It was really bad in there," said McDonald. "I was puking after we got out."

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

A suspicious early morning fire at the Radisson Hotel on Queen Street forced 105 guests out of bed Thursday.

At approximately 8:04 a.m. yesterday, police and firefighters were called to the fire at 402 Queen St., where they found evidence inside the hotel that may suggest that the fire was deliberately set.

Fourteen people were treated at the scene for minor smoke inhalation. Four people were transported to hospital for medical attention. One woman was in serious condition after suffering burns to 20 per cent of her body.

According to Kim Ayotte, chief of special operations with the Ottawa Fire Service, the fire started on the second floor of the hotel and was extinguished quickly after fire crews arrived.

However, significant levels of smoke spread through the building and all 105 guests at the hotel were evacuated and taken to the Delta Hotel across the street until they were allowed to retrieve their belongings.

Officers with the Ottawa police arson unit, the fire department and the fire marshal's office are investigating the incident.

Union sets info session prior to forced vote

TRANSIT STRIKE In preparation for a forced supervised vote on the city's last contract offer, the union representing 2,300 striking OC Transpo employees is hosting an information session on Monday.

Federal Labour Minister Rona Ambrose ordered the vote — which must be held prior to Jan. 9 — last Wednesday after the city had requested the move on Christmas Eve.

Ambrose appointed the Canada Industrial Relations Board to supervise the vote.

If the offer is rejected, CIRB also has the option of declaring transit an essential service.

"After carefully taking into consideration the concerns raised about public safety, I have asked the board to review the existing maintenance of activities agreement between the parties to ensure that public health and safety are not jeopardized," said Ambrose in a press release.

ATU Local 279 president Andre Cornellier said: "An unprecedented decision has been made to disrupt the flow of the collective bargaining process."

Neither side has spoken since mediated talks broke off before Christmas with both sides accusing the other of being inflexible, particularly with regards to how drivers' schedules are determined.

Ottawa has been without public transit since drivers, mechanics and dispatchers walked off the job on Dec. 10.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Rollover sends two to hospital

INVESTIGATION Two people suffered serious injuries and were taken to hospital after a single-vehicle rollover just west of downtown early Thursday morning.

At around 1:54 a.m., police and paramedics were called to a rollover collision on Scott Street near Garland Avenue, where a car had rolled over several times, damaging hydro lines.

The vehicle was badly damaged. It took 30 minutes for emergency workers to extricate a woman, who was trapped in the car, said paramedic team leader Paul Levesque.

Paramedics transported two people, a man and a woman, to hospital, where they were treated for serious injuries.

Ottawa police are now investigating the cause of the collision.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Sharpen those skates

Canal kickoff

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Rosalind Crump, 17, gives her sister Maggie, 19, a push on the Rideau Canal skateway on Thursday. The National Capital Commission kicked off the 39th season of the skateway by opening a two-kilometre section between Pretoria Bridge and Bank Street Bridge.

ShareYourViews
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Music pg 12

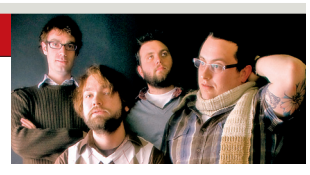
Cross picks 'em to shine in 2009

Local pg 3

Jan. 1 death suspicious

Music pg 12

Local indies transparent



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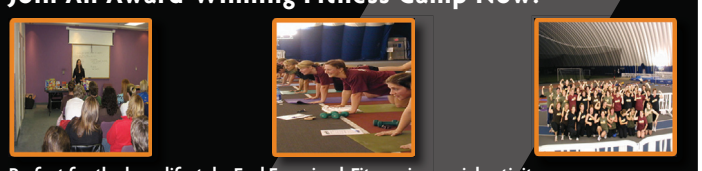

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Police seek suspect in shop heist
Officers are seeking a suspect after a man wielding a kitchen knife robbed a dry cleaning shop on New Year's Eve. He is described as a white male in his 50s, six feet tall and wearing a balaclava and a green and navy ski jacket. Anyone with information is asked to call the Ottawa police robbery section at 613-236-1222, ext. 5116. METRO OTTAWA

Local

Teen arrested for attempted murder

Ottawa police have charged a 16-year-old male with attempted murder, robbery and weapons-related offences in relation to two unrelated incidents that occurred in the area of Baseline and Monterey Drive on Tuesday. Both victims, a 43-year-old man and a 55-year-old man, were treated at hospital for injuries. METRO OTTAWA

Cops investigating death in 'pretty quiet' area

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Police are continuing to investigate a suspicious death after a man was found dead at a Vanier home early Thursday morning.

At approximately 4 a.m., police were called to a multi-unit home at 391 Dieppe St. just off of McArthur Road, where they found a deceased male.

The area surrounding the side door leading to Apt. 2 was cordoned off with yellow police tape while officers from the major crime unit investigated.

A police cruiser was parked in front of the two-storey house all day.

The death shocked people living on the quiet residential street.

Everest Howse, who lives across the street at 388 Dieppe St., said he knew a group of young people moved into the house about two weeks ago.

But he said people keep to themselves on the street.

"It's pretty quiet here," he said. "You never see any police cars here."

While the death was shocking, Howse said he didn't fear for his safety.

While most people on the street owned their home, the wooden house at 391 Dieppe St. was a rental, said his wife, Patricia.

"People live there a few months and then they're gone," she said. "It's like a revolving door."

Several houses down at 404 Dieppe St., a woman said she had been living in the neighbourhood for eight years and had never seen any sign of police activity.

"People keep to themselves," she said.

A man living in the basement apartment at 391 Dieppe also said he didn't know anything about what had happened upstairs, but did not comment further.

Police from the major crime unit declined to comment on the case, including the identity of the deceased.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Ottawa police are investigating a suspicious death after a man was found dead in Apt. 2 of a house at 391 Dieppe St. in Vanier early Thursday morning.

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Maple Leaf CEO Michael McCain's response to listeria being named business story of the year at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video The brave and the foolish ring in 2009 with the polar bear dip at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 5 5 0; **Ontario Pick 4 :** 3 8 7 0
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Daily Keno: 1, 9, 11, 18, 21, 23, 31, 33, 38, 40, 43, 46, 48, 50, 57, 60, 61, 64, 66 & 67
Payday: 8, 15, 41 & 43
These results are not official.

Please recycle

Resolutions need work to work

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

When it comes to New Year's resolutions, Tim Pychyl has heard them all.

"A lot of them are health related," said the personality psychologist at Carleton University. "They're about stopping bad behaviours and starting healthy habits — quitting smoking, drinking less, exercising more, eating better, sleeping more and being less stressed."

And certainly, the proof is there.

"We see a flood of sales for exercise equipment and health-club memberships around New Year's," he said.

A new calendar might inspire many to make a fresh start, but no matter what the resolutions are, they will only work with the right attitude, said the renowned procrastination expert, who blogs on procrastination.ca and the Psychology Today website.

"I get a lot of people talking to me about goal-setting."
Tim Pychyl

"I get a lot of people talking to me about goal-setting and procrastination," he said. "It's not just New Year's."

Although he said the new year isn't necessarily a bad time to bring a new goal in, what's ironic about resolutions is that they're actually a culturally prescribed form of procrastination, he said.

People are looking to make changes — but not before January.

In making a goal, people have to balance meaning and manageability, he said.

"Most goals lack structure or a manageable plan. We have good intentions, but we don't have an implementation plan," he said.

The next step toward success is to realize that there will be negative emotions tied to it, he said.

"If it was easy, you would have done it before," he said. "You have to recognize that you're not going to feel more like doing it tomorrow. But we know from research that when you start working on it, it will give you energy to do more."

Couple charged in fatal hit-and-run

CRIME About two weeks after police identified the driver of a vehicle believed to be involved in a fatal hit-and-run collision, an Ottawa couple is set to appear in court this month to answer to several charges.

After more than five months of interviews, police charged a 32-year-old driver of a red Mazda RX8 and the passenger, the man's girlfriend, on New Year's Eve.

At around 11:16 p.m. on July 13, Mitchell Anderson was on his way to meet his teenage daughter as she finished her shift at an Elgin Street fast-food restaurant.

A vehicle allegedly struck him while he was crossing Colonel By Drive at Rideau Street.

He died of his injuries in hospital two days later.

Using witness information, police worked with the Ministry of Transportation to find the Mazda RX8 witnesses reported seeing at the scene. They interviewed owners of vehicles that matched the description.

About two weeks ago, police said they had identified the driver, but had to consult with the Crown attorney's office to determine charges.

Earlier this week, police charged the driver with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death and failing to stop at scene of an accident causing death. The female passenger was charged with obstructing police.

Vlad Nicolae Precup, 32, and Christy Lu, 26, appear in court on January 28.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

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Students lack knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases, report says

Many Canadian high school students are unaware of the causes of infertility and do not know that sexually transmitted diseases can affect their ability to have children. About 94 per cent of the students didn't know that sexually transmitted infections can lead to infertility, according to a report in the journal Fertility and Sterility. **REUTERS**

Canada

Insomnia costs billions a year

Insomnia costs Quebec about $6.5 billion a year, mostly through lost productivity among those who can't sleep, according to a new study. The figures calculated by researchers from the University of Laval in Quebec City suggest "the economic burden of untreated insomnia is much higher than that of treating insomnia," so there should be more studies of therapies.

CBC NEWS ONLINE

Afghan drug trade may lure troops

REPORT There's a "high probability" some troops serving in Afghanistan — one of the world's biggest sources of illegal drugs — will get involved in the drug trade, a military police report warns.

"Access to illicit drugs in Afghanistan is routine," reads the report obtained by the Toronto Star. "Easy access to heroin, hashish, cannabis presents a temptation for (Canadian) troops in the form of personal use and in the form of importation for the purpose of trafficking."

It notes that using and trafficking drugs are illegal and "contrary to the ethos" of the Canadian Forces, but concedes some of the 2,500 troops serving in the war-torn nation might not be able to resist the lure.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario faces a tough road ahead

McGuinty looking to get province's economy back on track

Back in June, Premier Dalton McGuinty's Air Canada flight made an emergency landing in Las Vegas returning from a business trip to sunny California.

With its pressure seal broken high over the coastal mountains, the jet began an urgent descent and circled the desert to burn off fuel for hours in endless turbulence that left dozens of passengers hunched over airsickness bags.

Life didn't get much easier after McGuinty got back to Toronto.

The global financial crisis blew wide open over the summer and fall, killing more jobs, shattering the stock market and leaving 2009 to shape up as another stomach-churner.

"It's going to be a tough year, I understand that," McGuinty told reporters before leaving on his Christmas break.

"I know folks have lost their jobs. Some folks have lost real savings. I know there's a lot of worry and concern out there," he added in a year-end interview with Global TV's Focus Ontario.

The past few months have seen Ontario's stature as Canada's economic powerhouse diminished by several factors — as if lady luck was not smiling on McGuinty during the unplanned stopover in Vegas.

- A vicious combination of a high dollar, high oil prices and cut throat global competition and the slowdown have hobbled Ontario's manufacturing sector in the past few years, erasing 200,000 jobs since 2003.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Search called off for B.C. man

SNOWBOARDER The search for a second snowboarder missing on Mount Seymour near North Vancouver, B.C., has ended after police determined the footprints James William Martin saw on the mountain were his own.

Rescue crews began combing the mountain on Wednesday evening after the 21-year-old snowboarder, who'd just been found after three days in the wilderness, said he saw another set of tracks in the snow.

Martin was reported missing on Tuesday.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO CANADA

Quebec City **New Year's, anniversary celebrations**

MATHIEU BELANGER/REUTERS

Fireworks explode during New Year's Eve celebrations in Quebec City on Wednesday. The fireworks also marked the end of the celebrations for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City.

News in brief

MEXICO A Vancouver man is in critical condition in a Mexican hospital, and his friend is stable, after the two were shot at a strip club and tourist hot spot. The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed yesterday that two Canadians were shot on Tuesday in Cabo San Lucas, a resort town at the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula.

AVALANCHE A memorial service will be held in the small town of Sparwood, B.C., on Sunday for eight snowmobilers who died in an avalanche near Fernie. The men were part of a group of 11 friends who were caught in four successive avalanches in Flathead Valley on Dec. 28.

BLIZZARD Thanks to an overnight blizzard, most Nova Scotians welcomed in the new year by waiting for a cab, waiting for an airplane, or just trying to figure out how they'll dig themselves out of their home.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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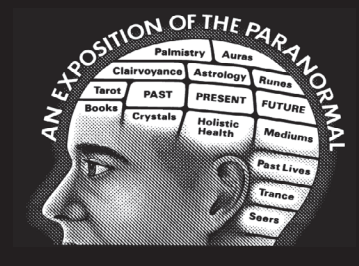

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the Bay

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Extra second added to 2008 by world timekeepers

Those eager to put 2008 behind them had to hold their goodbyes for just a moment on New Year's Eve. The world's official timekeepers added a "leap second" to the last day of the year on Wednesday, to help match clocks to the Earth's slowing spin on its axis, which takes place at ever-changing rates affected by tides and other factors. REUTERS

World/Business

Partygoers killed in Thai nightclub blaze

FIRE A blaze at a Bangkok nightclub killed at least 61 people and injured more than 200 others as people celebrating the New Year stampeded out of the club.

The cause of the fire was under investigation with witnesses saying it was caused by fireworks and media reporting it was due to an electrical fault.

Forensic experts were unable to identify at least 30 bodies, as they had no identification documents with them, doctors said.

Foreigners treated in hospitals included those from Japan, Australia, the Netherlands and France, police said.

Witnesses said clubbers were given sparklers before midnight. Fireworks started going off inside the dance area, sparking a conflagration. REUTERS

Air strike kills Hamas official

Israel killed a senior Hamas leader in an air attack on his home on Thursday, striking its first deadly blow against the top ranks of the Islamic group in a Gaza offensive that has claimed more than 400 Palestinian lives.

Nizar Rayyan, a cleric widely regarded as one of Hamas's most hardline political leaders, had called for renewed suicide bombings inside Israel.

Medical officials, confirming his death, said two of his four wives and seven of his children were also killed.

Hundreds of supporters scrambling over the concrete rubble vowed revenge as the mangled bodies, covered in blood and cement dust, were extracted from the wreckage.

MOHAMMED SALEM/REUTERS

Palestinians stand yesterday at the scene of an Israeli air strike on the home of senior Hamas leader Nizar Rayyan in Gaza.

Rayyan, 49, was a preacher at a "mosque of martyrs who mentored suicide bombers.

Hamas Radio said he had ignored advice to leave his house as other Hamas leaders have done in anticipation of assassination attempts by Israeli forces, who confirmed the air strike. REUTERS

Bombings kill at least 5 in India

ATTACK At least five people were killed and 26 wounded when suspected separatist militants set off three bombs in India's northeastern Assam state on Thursday, police said.

The first bomb was found in a dustbin in a heavily populated residential area, but went off before it could be diffused.

Explosives planted on bicycles near a shopping mall and street market also exploded in the late afternoon, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. REUTERS

News in brief

ANNIVERSARY Cuba celebrated Thursday the 50th anniversary of a 1959 revolution, whose leader Fidel Castro turned the island into a communist state. The anniversary comes as the era of Castro, now 82 and in poor health, winds down.

MADOFF A statue stolen last month from Wall Street financier Bernard Madoff's Florida home has been returned with a note reading "Bernie the Swindler, Lesson: Return stolen property to rightful owners. Signed by The Educators." The statue was untouched, and police say the thieves likely wanted to prove a point. REUTERS

Business

U.S. album sales tumble

U.S. album sales slid for a seventh time in eight years in 2008 as growth in the digital arena, one of the few bright spots in the ailing music industry, slowed, according to data issued this week.

Total album sales fell 14 per cent to 428.4 million units during the 52-week period ended Dec. 28, according to retail data collected by tracking firm Nielsen SoundScan.

This follows a 15 per cent drop in 2007, and sets a new low since the firm began monitoring sales in 1991. Sales have plummeted 45 per cent from the industry's high-water mark of 785.1 million units in 2000, due largely to Internet piracy and competition from other forms of entertainment such as video games. Last year's No. 1 album was pop vocalist Josh Groban's Noel with 3.7 million copies.

Only three other albums sold more than 2 million copies this year: Last year, eight albums sold more than 2 million copies.

Overall music sales, including albums, singles, music video and digital tracks, rose 10.5 per cent to 1.5 billion units, after 14 per cent growth in 2007. REUTERS

Ringing sales

- Purchases of the top 100 mastertone ringers slid 33 per cent to 43.8 million units.
- Only one mastertone broke the two million mark — Lil Wayne's Lollipop.

Business in brief

AUTO While it will be years before its released, Toyota Motor Corp. is secretly designing a vehicle that run completely on solar energy. A newspaper in Japan says Toyota is developing the environmentally friendly car in order to boost struggling business.

RALLY Toronto's main stock index jumped nearly two per cent on the last day of 2008, to end the worst year for Canadian stocks since the Great Depression on a positive note as oil prices staged a late-session rally. The S&P/TSX composite index closed up 156.98 points. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Comment & Views

2008: Can we get a do-over?

OmniVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

It might just be me — never underestimate a columnist's proficiency at subjectivity — but I can't recall the last time the transition from the old year to the new felt so downbeat.

My memories aren't exactly long — I can't speak authoritatively about any New Year during the Great Depression, or the last night of 1939, when a new world war was just getting under steam, and I've got to assume that they were pretty glum affairs.

The transition from 1963 to 1964, when the assassination of John F. Kennedy was still recent and raw, was probably a sombre affair, but it happened just before I was born.

I've lived through Watergate and the OPEC oil crisis, and at least two major recessions after the '70s, though, so I can claim some modest long view on history's recent dark patches.

I was a freelancer during the recession following Black Monday — Oct. 19, 1987 — and lost over half of my clients in the six subsequent months, but I know that the mood in general was far more festive when 1988 hove into view.

The consensus is pretty dire; a series of interviews with financial giants that's run in the National Post for the last few weeks has been depressing reading. "I think it's tough. I think it's going to get tougher," said Jim Treliving, CEO of Boston Pizza and Dragon's Den star.

"It sounds trite but it's a very complex and very dangerous situation," warned banking analyst Anthony Boekh.

Asked whether he's seen a worse situation, philanthropist and Barrick Gold CEO Peter Munk was succinct: "No. But then again, I'm only 81. If I was 120, I probably would have."

It's no wonder, then, that we're acting like we're facing dust bowls and bread lines even when the worst we've seen is mostly cruel justice — housing foreclosures on people who couldn't afford their homes to begin with, and the collapse of banking institutions who played a risky game badly and lost.

As for the crisis in the auto industry, that's been brewing for years — decades, actually — and there have been Bernie Madoffs at regular intervals since the first man traded his goat for a shiny bauble.

It's half real crisis and half coincidence, and it's rather inevitable that my industry — the media we keep hearing is at an all-time low in public trust — has managed to make it all seem like a financial perfect storm about to break over your leaky trawler.

It might be true — I make no claims as an oracle — but it's just as likely that we're being told to panic because nobody wants to look like Pollyanna if the worst comes to pass.

Perhaps we should take advantage of this sombre but fortuitous mood and begin the New Year like jilted lovers; skeptical of everyone, whether they're peddling optimism or doom, and especially skeptical of our own judgment, which got us into this mess in the first place.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Police Taser use needs reviewing

UrbanCompass

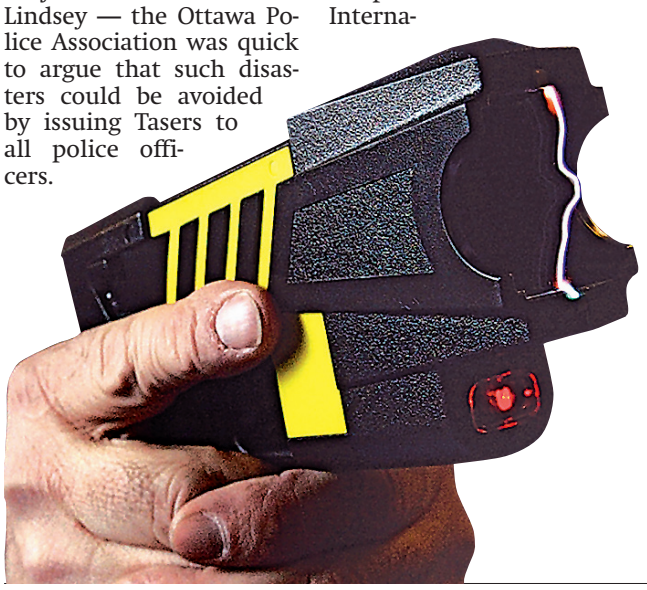
Steve Collins

"Give a small boy a hammer, and he will find that everything he encounters needs pounding." — Abraham Kaplan

After Ottawa police shot Samantha Soderlind in her apartment — and, accidentally, her friend Steven Lindsey — the Ottawa Police Association was quick to argue that such disasters could be avoided by issuing Tasers to all police officers.

This after Ottawa's police force, among others, was subjected to a brief pre-Christmas toy recall, following CBC reports that some Tasers were supplying a bigger jolt than the 50,000 volts specified by the manufacturer.

Testing found our municipal people-prods were working normally, but opinion is divided on whether that's good news. While police continue to insist the Taser is safe, they often rely on research that is largely funded by the weapon's maker — Taser International.



In Canada, more than 25 people have died after having these gadgets used on them. The dead include Robert Dziekanski of unsought Vancouver airport fame.

Such dangerous radicals as former B.C. Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh and former RCMP commissioner Guiliano Zaccardelli have joined Amnesty International in calling for a moratorium on the Mounties' use of Tasers until their dangers have been properly assessed.

It must be noted that the Ottawa police have been more nice than naughty in their use of the Taser. It was reported in July that our cops had used their Tasers 115 times between October 2000 and May 2008. The stun guns were initially issued only to tactical squad officers, and then, in October 2007, to supervisors.

In comparison, the Edmonton Police, which supplies Tasers to all its frontline officers, had used them 88 times in one 10-month period.

In Vancouver, transit police have been issued the stun guns, and have in some cases turned them on riders for not paying their fares. The polite term for this is "usage creep." Tasing is generally preferable to shooting, but would turnstile jumpers really have been shot if stun guns hadn't been available?

Ottawa's record is not entirely unblotted. In 2003, a non-violent protestor was shocked twice at a demonstration while he lay handcuffed on the ground.

The police officer who tased him was subsequently convicted last year of "unnecessary exercise of authority," something a Taser can make all too convenient and tempting.

Although it's never a been good idea to argue with a cop, if he's now equipped with a 'Shut Up Button', at what point in an honest difference of opinion with police might a citizen be adjudged "combative" or "resistant," and subjected to a 50,000-volt correction?

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa.

Letters

Bring back Canadian Idol or give it to someone else

I am depressed about next summer. I will watch American Idol, but I always look forward to our version.

I love anything Canadian. We need to have this show aired; it gives everyone hope that dreams can come true.

CTV got the hockey song, maybe they should give CBC the show for this year. Come on CTV, do something positive for this country. Find ways to make it more economical.

CAROLYN SAINCHUK
TORONTO

How can Ottawa allow a transit strike for 3 weeks?

After three weeks of an Ottawa transit strike, there is no end in sight.

My question to the city is why isn't there a backup plan.

In less than a week, citizens will return back to regular schedule with potentially no transit.

The city has $3 million set aside set for transit, why are they not spending it to reduce the impact?

Here is my suggestion: Have organizations apply for a grant from municipal contribution for transit that is usually directed to OC Transpo.

Let them provide shuttle service between major centres, and/or taxi carpooling service.

MICHAEL YUEN
OTTAWA

I will no longer support OC transpo and its drivers

Now that the holiday season is over, I have taken some time to reflect on the issues being argued in regards to the OC Transpo bus strike.

At the risk that the message has fallen on deaf ears over at OC Transpo, many people of Ottawa, including myself and my peers (all students) do not support your striking in the slightest. I will rather spend $60 to $70 a day in cabs to work than encourage my city to settle with you on this matter.

I am planning to purchase a car so that once you are back up and running, I won't have to support your company financially in any way.

Thanks for nothing.

ASHLEY HEIDELBERGER,
OTTAWA

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawaletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Tanguay out six weeks

Montreal Canadiens forward Alex Tanguay will miss six weeks with a left shoulder injury. Tanguay was injured during the first period of Tuesday's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Bolt edges Phelps

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt, left, edged U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps to be voted the 2008 athlete of the year by the international media. In a poll by the International Sports Press Association, journalists from 96 nations gave Bolt a narrow edge over Phelps. Bolt won three gold medals at the Olympics, setting world records in the 100 metres, 200 and 400 relay. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Nash weighs his 2010 options

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

We're barely into 2009, granted, but the finest Canadian basketball player in history is already thinking about 2010.

In an interview with NBC, B.C. native Steve Nash confirmed what appeared in this space Nov. 24 — that he is considering the idea of joining the New York Knicks as a free agent in 2010, after his contract with the Phoenix Suns expires. He emerged with another eyebrow-raising possibility, however, by mentioning the Toronto Raptors to NBC.

While not ruling out re-signing with the Suns, Nash said: "I feel fortunate there could be other possibilities for me. New York, obviously, is my off-season home, so I love the city. It's a basketball mecca. (Ex-Suns-turned-Knicks coach) Mike D'Antoni is there, so there's a lot of attractive variables. And then Toronto, to go back to Canada to play for the home team, so to speak. I feel good that one of those could really be a really strong possibility."

• Heaven knows the Raptors need help.

Despite Canadian media apologists who regularly utter nonsense about the Raptors "keeping close" to their opponents, the reality is that Canada's NBA franchise has deteriorated woefully, to the point where management is planning ticket-price reductions. Fan interest is waning partly because many of the Raptors' games aren't televised by any network that allows the masses to watch them. Mind you, considering the Raps' ineptitude, that may be a positive for the club.

Oh, and then there's word spreading around the NBA like wildfire that first-year Raptor Jermaine O'Neal has become a frequent complainer about injuries that may be more imagined than real.

• Ex-NBA superstar Charles Barkley, my favourite TV sports analyst, was drinking with Jaleel White — aka Steve Urkel of the old Family Matters sitcom — at an Arizona nightclub called Dirty/Pretty shortly before he was arrested for DUI Tuesday night ... Ex-NFL star Andre Rison, who also spent some time with the CFL's Toronto Argonauts, also was arrested this week on charges of public intoxication in Texas ... Look for left-hander Andy Pettitte to re-sign with the New York Yankees next week ... I'm told, incidentally, that the Blue Jays wouldn't mind signing an ex-Yank to fortify their offence. The question is whether they're willing to pay Bobby Abreu the millions he's seeking ... And soccer icon David Beckham has an interesting new tattoo on his arm. It's in Hebrew, and it says: "My son, do not forget my teaching but keep my commands in your heart."

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

NHL Frozen Wrigley Field

JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

The Chicago Blackhawks get set for a faceoff against the Detroit Red Wings during the NHL Winter Classic at Wrigley Field on Thursday. Detroit won 6-4.

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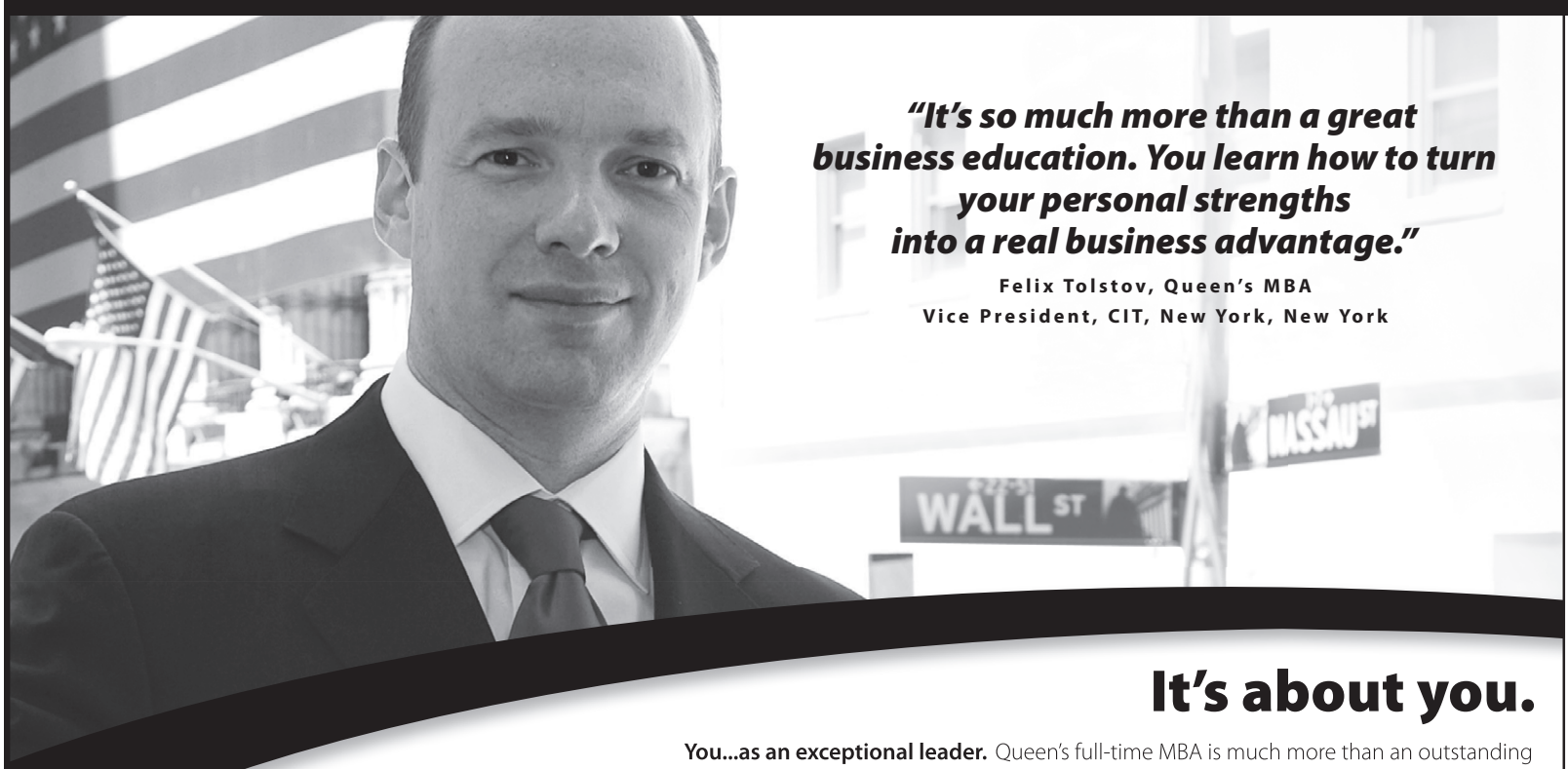

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Movies&Entertainment

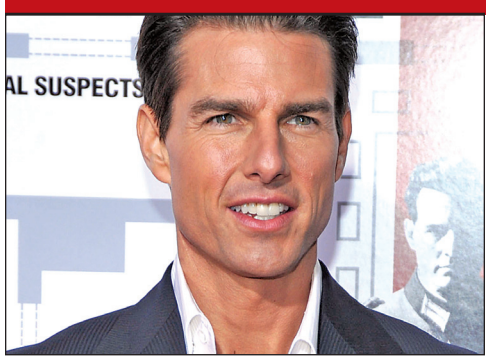
EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Year of the Third Dimension Pg 10

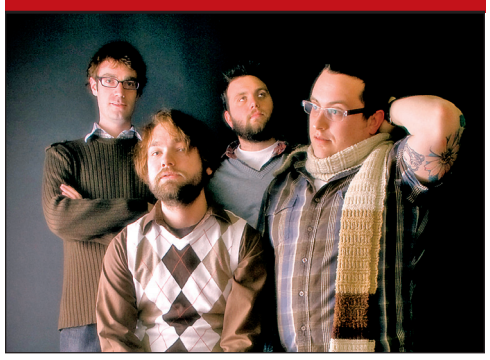
DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg, the man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek, has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D movies.

movies Pg 10



Cruise's million-dollar smile noticeably gone in Valkyrie.

music Pg 12



Indie rockers share touring, recording adventures online.

music Pg 12

Alan Cross tries to call the future big shots in 2009.

Warner Bros. prepared to defend Watchmen in court

In a defiant statement issued Monday, Warner Bros. said it was prepared to go to trial or appeal last week's U.S. court ruling that the studio had infringed on Fox's copyright in making Watchmen, the adaptation of the Alan Moore superhero graphic novel. REUTERS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Family neuroses abound against holiday backdrop

Un Conte de **Noel**

Director: Arnaud Desplechin
Stars: Catherine Deneuve, Matthew Almaric, Emmanuelle Devos
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Arnaud Desplechin's latest turbocharged episode of French Family Feud — following his acclaimed 2005 drama Kings and Queen — concludes with a quotation from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

It is appropriate because after two and a half hours of dizzying filial drama — sibling rivalry, adultery, cancer scares, grudging blood transfusions and symbolic living room Christmas pageants — the film's message basically boils down to, "Lord, what (entertaining) fools these mortals be." And this is very much a movie about mortality: Its narrative is framed by the tragic death of a child. Never regarded as a minimalist, Desplechin absolutely goes for broke here, sketching an eccentric, spectacularly dysfunctional upper-middle-class clan and then leaving their various neuroses to smash up against one another against a holiday backdrop.

As usual, the director elicits bravura performances, especially by Matthew Amalric, playing a less cuddly version of his Kings and Queen rascal (and convincingly taking the greatest onscreen face-plant since Jackass).

And Desplechin makes bravura filmmaking choices to match: There's scarcely a shot that doesn't teem with activity, invention or some sort of cinematic allusion.

2009: The year of 3-D films

Movie **feature**

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

DreamWorks Animation chief Jeffrey Katzenberg is in the middle of a tough road trip. The man behind such family hits as Kung-Fu Panda and Shrek has been touring North America to promote what he's determined as cinema's next great innovation: 3-D.

Now, that may sound odd. After all, the fad of 3-D surfaced decades ago and since has become something of a punchline, which is exactly what's making Katzenberg's mission so challenging.

"It's really hard to get people to think about it in a different way, and the only way is to show it," said Katzenberg during a stop in Toronto. By treating journalists to a sneak peek of his groundbreaking InTru digital 3-D comedy Monsters vs. Aliens — coming in March — Katzenberg is showing off how digital advancement has breached the campy fourth wall that was once reserved for such B-movies as 1953's Robot Monster and Cat-Women of the Moon.

"It was used as a gimmick," said Katzenberg about the historical use of 3-D.

"It doesn't replace a great story, so we come back to the very fundamental aspect of this, which is (that) Monsters vs. Aliens is great in its own right … but I think to be able to experience it in 3-D is something really exciting."

Katzenberg is not alone in this sentiment. While other films have been adapted for 3-D screenings, we're entering a year filled with 3-D-conceived projects, including My Bloody Valentine 3-D, Pixar's Up, Disney's A Christmas Carol and James Cameron's long-awaited Avatar.

For Katzenberg — whose studio already spends about $165 million per movie — the decision to begin making his films in 3-D wasn't easy.

The technology will add 10 per cent to his costs, which will likely be reflected in the admission price. Some critics say such a gamble in a recessive economic climate is risky, but Katzenberg remains true to his latest innovation.

"Relative to any other choice you can do out of the home, movies are still just a phenomenal value. And frankly, in more challenged economic times, people appreciate it more," said Katzenberg.

"People took movies for granted and they took the movie theatre for granted, and I don't think they are right now."

What came first: Tom Cruise or the smile?

InFocus

Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Valkyrie looks like a standard-issue Tom Cruise movie with the usual explosions, intrigue and action. The missing key element is his megawatt smile. His Col. Claus von Stauffenberg is so stern-faced he makes the expression-challenged Buster Keaton seem riotously animated by comparison.

If Helen of Troy was the face that launched a thousand ships, then Cruise has the smile that sold a million movie tickets. Wide and toothy, it stretches the full breadth of his face as a physical manifestation of his movie-star charisma and is the focus of his public persona.

The smile debuted in a Risky Business scene where he recruits clients for his new business. There it was a charming, non-aggressive symbol of his self-assuredness. The '80s saw the lopsided grin become a pop-culture icon. It shone from the cockpit of his Top Gun F-14 and reflected off the Stoli bottles in Cocktail. In each of these films the smile is 90 per cent of the performance.

After a series of tight-lipped Oscar-bait performances post-Cocktail that kept the smile hidden — Rain Man, Born on the Fourth of July, A Few Good Men and The Firm— 1996's Jerry Maguire brought the smile back as a romantic tool, revealing both heartbreak and earnestness. The smile's most natural performance to date is in Magnolia. As the inspirational guru of the "Seduce and Destroy" technique, Cruise handed in the best performance of his career because he understood the character's innate charisma.

The villain characters of The Last Samurai and Collateral show the smile's emotional range. The smile is still there, but now it's menacing. For example, Vincent, the hit man in Collateral, uses an ominously icy smile when he's about to hurt people. In one form or another, the smile has been front and centre in all of Cruise's hits. Without it, Valkyrie just doesn't feel like a real Cruise blockbuster.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

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This week's new release is highlighted in red.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 2 TO THURS., JAN. 8. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (14A) Thu 4:15
Doubt (PG) Fri 2-6:55 Sat 1:15-9:15 Sun 3:50 Mon-Tue 7:05 Wed-Thu 9:25
Paris (v.f.) (14A) Fri 4:15 Sat 3:30 Sun 9:10
Trainspotting (STC) Mon 9:20 Tue 5
Un conte de Noël (14A) Fri 9:10 Sat 6:10 Sun 12:45-6:05 Mon 4 Tue 9:20 Wed 4 Thu 6:20

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

Listings not available at press time.

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

Listings not available at press time.

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:40
Bolt (PG) Fri-Sun 2-4:50 Mon-Thu 4:50
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-4:10-8 Mon-Thu 4:10-8 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:20
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 7:40-10:15
Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20 Mon-Thu 5:20
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:15-7:15-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15-10:05
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 9:10
Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (Hindi w/e.s.t.) (STC) Fri-Thu 8:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Thu 4-7-10
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30-10:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-3:55-6:45 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:45
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd FloorWorld Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-4-8 Mon 4-8 No Passes Tue-Thu 4-8
Milk (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:40-9:35 Mon 3:30-9:35 Tue-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:35
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 9
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10-9:55
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:20-10:05
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:30 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:30
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:10-7-9:45

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Annie Leibovitz: Life Through a Lens (STC) Sat 9:10 Sun 5-9:10 Mon-Tue 7
The Black Stallion (STC) Sun 2:30
Down to the Dirt (STC) Wed 9:10 Thu 7
Growing Op (14A) Wed 7 Thu 9:10
IFCO Shorts (STC) Fri 7:30
Mad Detective (STC) Sat 11
Metropolis (PG) Fri 9
A Very British Gangster (STC) Sat-Sun 7 Mon-Tue 9

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218 familycinema.ca

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Sat 2
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri 7

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 10:40-12:40-2:50-4:55
Changeling (14A) Fri-Sat 10:30-1:45-5-8 Sun-Mon 1:45-5 Tue 10:30-1:45-5-8 Wed 1:45-5 Thu 10:30-1:45-5-8 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 10:30-8 Open Captioned Wed 10:30-8
High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) Fri-Thu 10-12:20-2:40-5:05-7:20-9:40
Nothing Like the Holidays (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:10-7:05
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Thu 2:15-4:45-9:15
Role Models (14A) Fri-Sat 10:20-1-3:05-5:20-7:25-9:30 Sun-Mon 1-3:05-5:20-9:30 Tue 10:20-1-3:05-5:20-7:25-9:30 Wed 1-3:05-5:20-9:30 Thu 10:20-1-3:05-5:20-7:25-9:30 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 10:20-7:25 Open Captioned Wed 10:20-7:25
Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:05

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Bedtime Stories (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 4-7-9:20
Marley & Me (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1:30-4:15-6:40-9:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-6:40-9:10
Yes Man (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 1:15-3:45-6:30-9:05 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 3:45-6:30-9:05

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 12
Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:05-12:50-4:20-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 10:05-12:50-4:20-7:20-10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 10-1:35-5:15-8:55 Mon-Thu 10-1:35-5:15-8:55
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:05-9:35
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15-12:45-3:30-6:15-8:45
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05-12:20-2:30-4:40-6:50-9
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:25-1:20-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 10:25-1:20-4-7-9:40
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:30
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-3:05-6:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 12:05-3:05-6:20-9:20
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 10-12:35-3:10-7:10-9:45
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:10-12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 10:10-12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 10:20-1:05-3:45
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 11-2-4:30-7:15-9:55
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 10:30-1:15-3:50-6:35-9:15 Mon-Thu 10:30-1:15-3:50-6:35-9:15

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 12-5-8 Sat 12-5-8-10 Sun 12-5
Grand Canyon: Fleuve en Peril (STC) Fri 1-10 Sat-Sun 1
Momies: Secret des Pharaons (STC) Fri 4-9 Sat-Sun 10-4
Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri 11-2-3-7 Sat 11-2-3-7-9 Sun 11-2-3-6

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30
Le Grand Départ (STC) Fri-Tue 1-3:10-7-9:10 Wed-Thu 7-9:10
Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:20-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Tue 12:40-3-6:40-9 Wed-Thu 6:40-9

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

007 Quantum (13+) Fri-Sun 1:40-3:30-7-9 Mon-Thu 1:40-3:30-7:20-9:10
Le Chihuahua de Beverly Hills (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:35-3:10-4:45 Mon-Thu 12-4:10
La cite de l'ombre (G) Fri-Sun 12-5:20 Mon-Thu 12
Des gars modèles (13+) Fri-Sun 12-5:35-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:45-7:30-9:10
High School Musical 3: La dernière année (G) Fri-Sun 1:45-3:40-7:20 Mon-Thu 1:45-3:40-5:35
L'Oeil du mal (G) Fri-Sun 7:35-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:20
Quatre Noël (G) Fri-Sun 1:45-3:20-6:20 Mon-Thu 1:45-3:20-7:35-9:05
Transporteur 3 (13+) Fri-Sun 7:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 12-7:30-9:15
Un conte de Noël (G) Fri-Sun 5 Mon-Thu 1:35-5
WALL-E (v.f.) (G) Fri-Thu 12

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Babine (STC) Fri-Tue 12:40-3:20-6:30-9 Wed-Thu 6:30-9
Le conte de Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:15-4:30-6:45 Mon-Tue 12-2:15-4:30-6:45 Wed-Thu 6:45
Le Grand Départ (STC) Fri-Tue 1:30-4-7-9:15 Wed-Thu 7-9:15
Histoires enchantées (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45-4:45-7:15-9:30 Mon-Tue 12:30-2:45-4:45-7:15-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:30
Le Jour où la terre s'arrêta (G) Fri-Thu 9
L'Étrange histoire de Benjamin Button (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:15-4:30-8 Mon 1:15-4:30-8 Tue 1:15-4:30-8:30 Wed 8:05 Thu 8
Marley et moi (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:45-7:20-9:45 Mon-Tue 1-3:45-7:20-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:45
Monsieur Oui (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:15-3-7:25-9:50 Mon-Tue 12:15-3-7:25-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:25-9:50
Sept vies (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:50-9:35 Mon-Tue 1:10-3:40-6:50-9:35 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:35
Twilight: la fascination (G) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:30-6:15-8:45 Wed-Thu 6:15-8:45

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Listings not available at press time.

BARRHAVEN

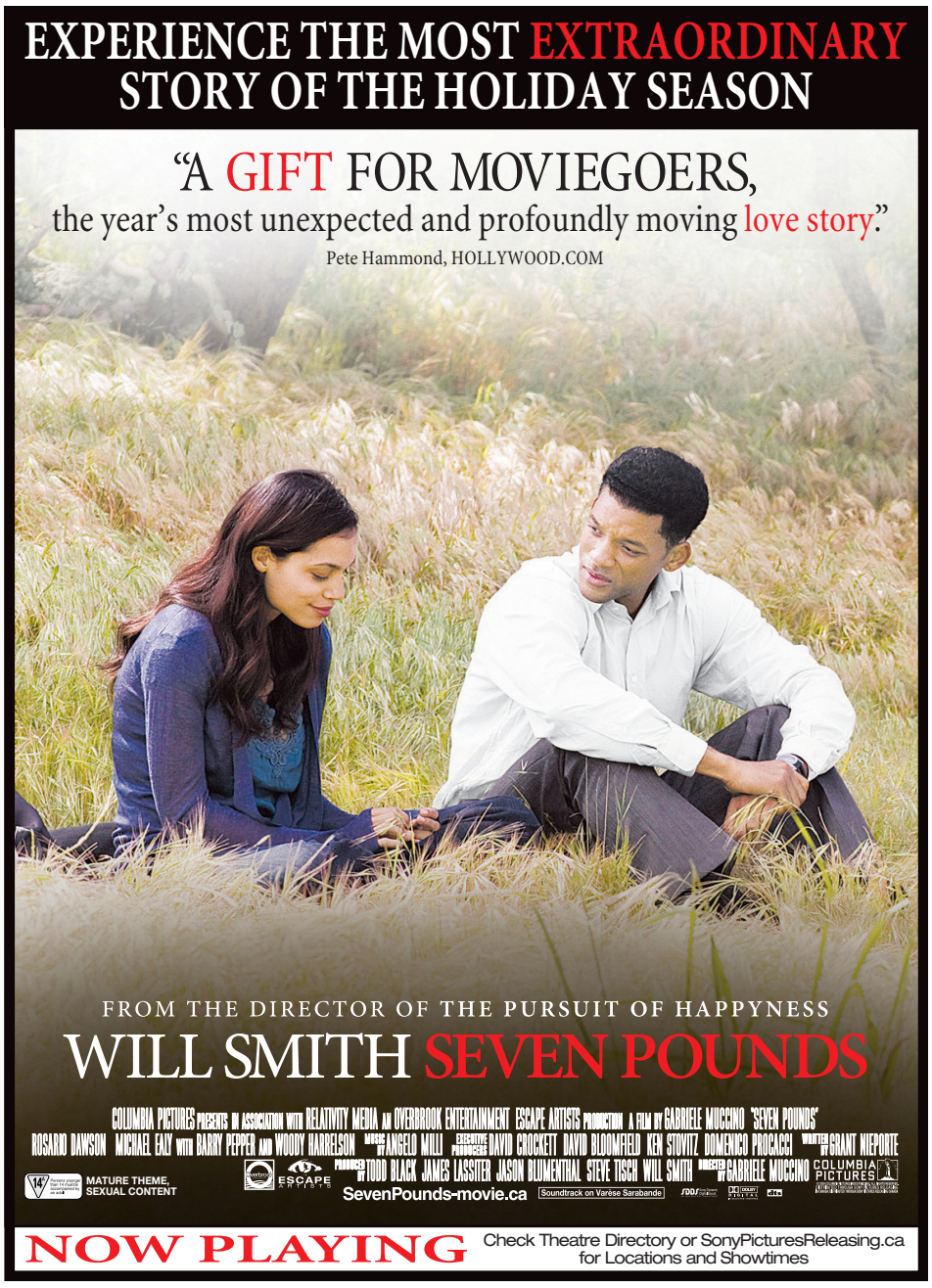
BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-9 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:40-4:30-8:30 Mon-Thu 5-8:40
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Sun 9:20 Mon-Thu 8
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4-6:30 Mon-Thu 5:30
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 6-8:50

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Bedtime Stories (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:25 Mon-Tue 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:25 Wed 3:20-7:05-9:25 Thu 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:30-4:50-7:30-10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:05-1:15-3:45-5:10-7:45-8:45 Mon-Tue 12:05-1:15-3:45-5:10-7:45-8:45 Wed 12:05-3:45-5:10-7:45-8:45 Thu 12:05-1:15-3:45-5:10-7:45-8:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Day the Earth Stood Still (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
The Day the Earth Stood Still: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:45
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-6:50-9:55
Four Christmases (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:40-5-7:25-10:05
Marley & Me (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:15-6:20-9 Mon-Thu 12:20-3:15-6:20-9
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:10-6:25-9:05
The Reader (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-7:05-10:25
Seven Pounds (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:15
The Spirit (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05-4:20-6:55-9:40
The Tale of Despereaux (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:35-3:25-6:45 Mon-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:45
Twilight (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3-6:30-9:35
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:15-10:10
Yes Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:10-9:50



Top 5 CDs according to Amazon.ca

1. Day And Age, The Killers; 2. The Priests, The Priests; 3. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 4. Funhouse, Pink; 5. Soul, Seal. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

See-through lives of indie rock

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

The term "Transparent" in Amos The Transparent couldn't stick better.

The Ottawa-based indie rock outfit takes its fans beyond the music, posting videos of their adventures touring across the country and recording in-studio on their website. Hours stuck in traffic singing Celine Dion songs (ironically, of course!), fussing over stacks of ready-made grocery store pies, sound checks on short notice — the life of a travelling band can be a rough one.

"Being in a band means nothing nowadays and it's not glorious. Your grandmother could be in a band," says Amos creator and frontman Jonathan Chandler. "So we thought it would be a fun, experimental thing to do that no one's really done before."

On Celine Dion he adds, "That was our bass player (James Nicol). You can only cycle through Kings of Leon so many times."

Amos The Transparent's sound is hard to classify, but it's been on the mind of frontman Jonathan Chandler for a long time.

But indie rock lovers are cycling through Amos The Transparent more and more. Their experimental arrangements on debut Everything I've Forgotten To Forget, based in folky acoustic melodies and classic rock, have gone over well with audiences at venues across the land — some including openers for Polaris Prize winner Patrick Watson.

Amy Millan of the Stars — birthed in part by music collective Broken Social Scene, which Amos The Transparent has been compared with — took notice of the band after a 2006 Bluesfest show in Ottawa, which led to a album guest star spot on track After All That It's Come To This.

"I would say that it's pretty hard to classify our music, or any kind of indie rock for that matter," Chandler said. "Certainly to Broken Social Scene, which I think happened because we originally started with eight people and they're such a large group too."

Chandler plans to release more for an exclusively digital EP in late January, which he says is the reason we haven't seen any recent online docs. But fans take note: they're on their way.

"I don't want to show my hand completely," he said. "But yeah, we're tampering with new interesting stuff."

For a link to the band's website check out Metronews.ca/music

Top-notch prospects for 2009 music season

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

Wondering who's going to rock your world in 2009?

Here are some possibilities:

LAND OF TALK: Female-fronted, Montreal-based band has a chance at being a Big Deal in 2009, especially since Metric has taken so long to release their next record.

DEAD CONFEDERATE: Fuzzy, spacey band managed by the same folks who fostered a little band called "Nirvana" back in the day. Not your typical Georgia band.

FRANZ FERDINAND: Their third record, Tonight: Franz Ferdinand, will be out on the 27th. I've heard it and I like it a lot. The flourishes from Soviet-era synthesizers are a nice touch.

FIGHT LIKE APES: Insanely raw group from Dublin that is about as far from U2 as you can get.

LUDO: St. Louis post-emo group that reminds me of a young Weezer. Cheeky and clever.

U2: Hopes and wishes are that No Line on the Horizon (due March 3) will revitalize the record and concert industry during these times of economic woe. Not that they haven't been drafted into doing that before (See Achtung Baby, Pop and All That You Can't Leave Behind).

GUNS N' ROSES: What if — and this doesn't take too much imagination — Axl wakes up one morning and realizes the best way to channel his genius is through Slash's guitar? And maybe Izzy Stradlin isn't doing anything terrible important and also has a cash flow problem? If you put enough money on the table, anything's possible.

SANTOGOLD: When I saw Santi White and her crew open for Coldplay last year, I wasn't moved. Not a bit. Nothing. I've since had a change of heart. There's a weird mix of indie rock and electronica going on here that I really like.

SOME OTHERS: Make sure you keep an eye on the Ting Tings and Coldplay.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read the daily Music Geek blog at ongoinghistory.com

Metro recommends

- **BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB, LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL:** The Cuban collective's exuberant live performance is caught on tape on only the second album featuring the original members ever released.
- **FALL OUT BOY, FOLIE À DEUX:** Chicago pop-punk outfit sheds emo handcuffs, adds a little prog rock and gets some help from Debbie Harry and Lil Wayne on its fifth studio offering.
- **FEMI KUTI, DAY BY DAY:** The son of legendary African musician Fela Kuti delivers an irresistible collection of danceable Afrobeat cuts.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

TOP 10 MOBILE DOWNLOADS

1	Poker Face	Lady Gaga ft. Colby O'Donis
2	Live Your Life	T.I. ft. Rihanna
3	Decode	Paramore
4	Right Now (Na Na Na)	Akon
5	Heartless	Kanye West
6	Hot N Cold	Katy Perry
7	Rock N' Roll Train	AC/DC
8	Circus	Britney Spears
9	Love Story	Taylor Swift
10	I'm So Paid	Akon

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Pitt signs up for Scorsese pilot
Actor Michael Pitt is in final negotiations to join Steve Buscemi in Boardwalk Empire, Martin Scorsese's drama pilot for HBO about the 1920s origins of Atlantic City. Pitt plays a ruthless flunky, while Buscemi plays a liquor-smuggling businessman. **REUTERS**

Going Out

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events around the city, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

Divine Performing Arts
When: Friday through Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Where: National Arts Centre, Southam Hall, 53 Elgin St.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with classical dance and music spectacle inspired by myths and legends. Tickets are $39-$159 through *ticketmaster.ca* or by phone at 613-755-1111.

Hayden Menzies
When: Friday through Feb. 4
Where: La Petite Mort Gallery, 306 Cumberland St.

Artist Hayden Menzies launches Inside & Out, a new series of paintings, tonight with a vernissage from 7-10 p.m. at the gallery. For more information visit *lapetitemort-gallery.com*.

Meredith Luce
When: Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Where: Blacksheep Inn, 420 Riverside Dr., Wakefield

The captivating songstress plays a solo show, with opening sets by former bandmates David Gaudet, and Giant Hand. Tickets $7 through *ticketweb.ca*.

Ward Anderson
When: Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Sunday 8 p.m.
Where: Absolute Comedy, 412 Preston St.

Comedian and author Ward Anderson brings his high-energy physical comedy routine to town, with guests Kevin Gasior and Pierre Brault. For more information call 613-233-8000.

Jehan Khoorshed
When: Friday
Where: Irene's Pub, 885 Bank St.

Ottawa-based folk rock-pop singer Jehan Khoorshed launches his newest CD with an intimate concert. For more information visit *irenespub.ca*.

Babylon Bonanza
When: Saturday
Where: Babylon Nightclub, 317 Bank St.

The fifth edition of the festivities featuring music, art and artisans. With guests The Goddamn Goddamns, The Ryde, Everything Less and Chris Neale. Tickets $15 at the door.

When I wish upon a TV star...

IntelleVision

TRYING TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE: Another year has begun, and the paucity of TV news means lots of retrospective and anticipatory themes from columnists, so why should I be any different? Alan Sepinwall of the New Jersey Star-Ledger took time to take Shonda Rhimes, Tim Kring, the writers on House, Amy Sherman-Palladino and Jeff Zucker to task for, retrospectively, this season of Grey's Anatomy, this season of Heroes, the character of Remy (Thirteen) Hadley, The Return Of Jezebel James and the decision to abandon the 10 p.m. weekday time slot to Jay Leno's new show.

Over at televisionwithoutpity.com, Angel Cohn fervently wished for more Simon on American Idol, more fun on Heroes, a less annoying Pam on The Office, some real A-list stars on Dancing With The Stars, and some personality for Anna Torv's Olivia on Fringe. Reading over her list made me wonder a) that Fringe didn't get canceled after three episodes, and b) that TV columnists sure watch a hell of a lot of TV.

Zap2it.com's TV critic Rick Porter made nine resolutions for the industry, wishing that CBS could wean itself off of police procedurals, that Fox could come up with a good comedy that wasn't a cartoon, that HBO can make a break from "the dense, somber shows the channel has tried out in the past couple years" (I disagree, but whatever,) and that NBC can "rediscover its soul," instead of programming based on profit margins from mediocre but mysteriously profitable shows. Good luck on that one.

Porter also wishes that Battlestar Galactica, about to head into the last half of its farewell season, will get a bit more respect from the industry. "None of the show's fine ensemble of actors has ever sniffed an Emmy or Golden Globe nomination," Porter writes, "and it counts no series honors and only a couple of writing and directing Emmy nods."

I'd second that, especially since Galactica is a prime example of exactly the sort of show no major network or "quality cable" outlet like HBO would ever get behind, despite the fact that shows like Galactica are probably the future of TV — genre-defying, intensely addictive, and wildly influential for at least the next few years. Beyond that, the only thing I'm hoping to see in the new year is a new series of Metalocalypse and those overdue Mary Tyler Moore Show box sets.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

GlobalStyle

Catch Metro's best- and worst-dressed list, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

FRIDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/2/09	265	353	2	TVO	Centre of the Earth		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat (N)		Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	*Accidental Friendship* (2008, Drama) Chandra Wilson.				Lilith on Top		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	*Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story* ★★ (DVS)				Supernanny		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	Corner Gas	Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		*Sticks and Stones* (2008, Docudrama) (DVS)				News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Air Farce New Year's Eve		Just for Laughs		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Deal or No Deal (iTV) (N)		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Dateline NBC		News (N)
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer (HDTV)		NUMB3RS (HDTV)		Two-Half Men
	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	King	Kung Fu
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Murdoch Mysteries		Lipstick Jungle (N)		Crusoe (HDTV)		News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	TV Made, Do It	Tube Tales	*Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict* (2008, Docudrama)				Greatest Myst.	Ad Persuasion	News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wife Swap		Supernanny		20/20 (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Foot. Pregame	(8:15) College Football Allstate Sugar Bowl -- Alabama vs. Utah. (HDTV) (Live)						
news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	406	417	27	net	Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Pro Football Preview		Prime Time Sports		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Chine	Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal	Le Téléjournal	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	Pregame	Junior Hockey 2009 IIHF World Championship Quarterfinal -- Teams TBA.					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
family	554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6teen	6teen	Misadventures	Futurama	Father of Pride	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	*Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen* ★★			*Smart House* ★★ (1999, Comedy)			*Pixel Perfect* ★★ (2004)	
	551	542	65	YTV	*H2O: The Movie* (2008, Fantasy) Cariba Heine, Claire Holt.				Falcon Beach		Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Rio" (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
	628	584	32	SPKE	Unsolved Mysteries (HDTV) (N)		*Star Wars: Episode I -- The Phantom Menace* ★★ (1999, Science Fiction) Liam Neeson.						MANswers
	616	521	39	SHO	The Best Years (DVS)		The Guard (HDTV)		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Webdreams	Sin Cities
	520	505	42	DIS	Mayday "Falling From the Sky"		Mayday		Mayday		Mayday		Mayday
	581	566	53	MTV	Girls-Latitude	After	Made "Ballroom Dancer"		Bromance Lingerie party.		The City	The City	After
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Bloodbath"		Engineering an Empire		*Alexander* ★★ (2004, Historical Drama) Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie.				
	603	561	95	FN	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In

SATURDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/3/09	265	353	2	TVO	Australia: Land of Parrots		*The Beast* ★★★ (1988, War) George Dzundza.				(10:15) *Three Kings* (1999, War)		
	211	331	3	GTV	Branded: Saving Our Town		Zero Hour		Mob Stories		Go Deep "Mississippi"		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	*Anne of Green Gables: The Continuing Story* ★★ (DVS)				Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card		NFL Football AFC Wild-Card -- Indianapolis Colts at San Diego Chargers. (HDTV) (Live)						News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers.		
	-	360	9	NBC	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card		NFL Football AFC Wild-Card -- Indianapolis Colts at San Diego Chargers. (HDTV) (Live)						Local 4 News
	-	362	13	CBS	BABY READ	The Insider (N)	Game Show	Game Show	Cold Case "Boy Crazy"		48 Hours Mystery		CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	Movie				Omni News: Mandarin		Chinese Rest.
	214	344	15	CITY	Survivorman (DVS)		Crusoe (HDTV)		*Killer Bees* (2002, Suspense) C. Thomas Howell. (DVS)				News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	TV Made, Do It	The Soup	Behind-Scenes	Behind-Scenes	*Mom, Dad and Her* (2008, Drama) Melora Hardin.				News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Entertainment Tonight		*Sleepless in Seattle* ★★★ (1993, Romance-Comedy) (HDTV) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan.						News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	Bernie Mac	Seinfeld	Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News (N)		MADtv
news	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week (HDTV)		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Investigations
sports	406	417	27	net	Best Damn Top 50 Special		Billiards World Cup of Pool.		The Ultimate Fighter		Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Humanima	Découverte (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	Pregame	Junior Hockey 2009 IIHF World Championship Semifinal -- Teams TBA.					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
family	554	544	48	TEL	*Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed* ★★ (2004, Comedy)				Johnny Test	Futurama	*Aeon Flux* ★★ (2005, Science Fiction)		
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Around the World in 80 Days* ★★ (2004)			*Only You* ★★ (1994)	
	551	542	65	YTV	Wolverine	Transformers	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Avatar-Last Air	Storm Hawks	Dark Oracle	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Broken"		CSI: Miami "Breathless"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Sopranos (HDTV)		The Sopranos
	628	584	32	SPKE	*Star Wars-Phantom*		*Star Wars: Episode II -- Attack of the Clones* ★★ (2002, Science Fiction) Ewan McGregor.						*Dragonslayer*
	616	521	39	SHO	About a Girl	Kink in Hair	*Loch Ness* ★★ (1996, Adventure) Ted Danson, Ian Holm.				*Spider-Man 2* ★★★ (2004, Action)		
	520	505	42	DIS	Cash Cab (N)	Destroyed	Mighty Ships "Faust"		Megawheel (N)		Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Guinea Pig
	581	566	53	MTV	MTV Live	After	Made "Ballroom Dancer"		MTV News	Girls-Latitude	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Under Covers"		Cities of the Underworld		*We Were Soldiers* ★★★ (2002, War) Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe.				
	603	561	95	FN	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Unwrapped

SUNDAY

OT	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/4/09	265	353	2	TVO	Palin-Sahara		Judah & Mohammad		Filth: The Mary Whitehouse Story			The View From Here	
	211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors	King of the Hill	*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				(10:01) Brothers & Sisters		News (N)
	209	342	6	CHRO	Funniest Home Videos		Million Dollar Password		Cold Case "Lotto Fever"		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		News (N)
	196	311	7	CTV	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card		Big Bang Th	Samantha Who	Desperate Housewives		(10:01) The Mentalist		News (N)
	208	303	8	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		*Chronicles of Narnia: Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*				*Chronicles of Narnia*		fifth estate
	-	360	9	NBC	Saturday Night Live Sports Extra (PA) (N)				Superstars of Dance (Series Premiere) (N)				Local 4 News
	-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes		Million Dollar Password		Cold Case "Lotto Fever"		The Unit "Bad Beat" (N)		CSI: NY
	216	395	14	OMN2	Hong Kong Express		Aaram	Arirang Korea	Word for Word	Trendy Zone	Tongues: History Language		Of Blessings
	214	344	15	CITY	2Half Men	Two/Half Men	*Die Another Day* ★★ (2002, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Halle Berry.					Less-Kind	News (N)
	218	345	18	E!	Greatest Myst.	Greatest Myst.	Extreme Makeover: Home		*Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (2004, Comedy)				News (N)
	-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		(10:01) Brothers & Sisters		News (N)
	-	365	36	FOX	NFL Football: NFC Wild-Card		*24: Redemption* (2008, Action) Kiefer Sutherland.				News (N)		Sportsworks
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
sports	406	417	27	net	UFC: Access	World Combat	World Combat League		World Combat League		World Combat League		Sportsnet Con.
	126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Marie-Claude	Regards sur 2008 (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Regards sur 2008 (SC)		Regard	Le Téléjournal
	400	280	30	TSN	NHL Hockey	SportsCentre	Hockey 2009 World Under 17 Challenge Gold Medal. (Live)					SportsCentre	
family	554	544	48	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	*Batman Returns* ★★ (1992, Action)		
	557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Awakenings* ★★★ (1990, Drama)			*Theodore Rex* ★ (1996)	
	551	542	65	YTV	(6) *Roll Bounce* (2005, Comedy-Drama)			Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami "Inside Out"		CSI: Miami
	628	584	32	SPKE	*Star Wars: Episode II*		*Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith* ★★★ (2005, Science Fiction) Ewan McGregor.						MANswers
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard (HDTV)		*A Daughter's Conviction* (2006, Mystery) Brooke Nevin.				*Ocean's Twelve* ★★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama)		
	520	505	42	DIS	MythBusters		Stephen Hawking-Theory		Stephen Hawking-Theory		MythBusters (N)		A. Bourdain
	581	566	53	MTV	Made "Ballroom Dancer"		Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	After
	522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Frame-Up"		Engineering an Empire		*Elizabeth* ★★★ (1998, Historical Drama) Cate Blanchett, Geoffrey Rush.				
	603	561	95	FN	Kylie Kwong	Ace of Cakes	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong	Kylie Kwong

New Year's engagement
American Idol star Gina Glocksen said, "I do," to her longtime boyfriend, school teacher Joe Ruzicka, on New Year's Eve, people.com has confirmed. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Richie hoping for baby No. 2

FAMILY It's baby time again for Nicole Richie and her rocker boyfriend, Joel Madden, starmagazine.com is reporting.

The Jan. 12 issue of the magazine reports that as their daughter Harlow gets ready to celebrate her first birthday, reformed party girl Nicole is taking vitamins, eating healthy and designing trendy maternity wear in preparation for her second pregnancy.

"Nicole simply told Joel that she wants another baby — right away," a friend confides to Star. "He was a little overwhelmed at first, but now he's with her 100 per cent. They're both thrilled about adding to their family."

And, after overcoming a rocky period in their relationship, the couple seems to be in a good place to expand their family.

Nicole and Joel went through a "rough patch, but now things are amazing between them," says a source. "Nicole knows it's because they're both so happy with Harlow, and she truly believes another baby will double their commitment."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Latifah targeted in jewelry theft

THEFT Paris Hilton is not the only recent celebrity victim of jewelry theft — this time, thieves have gone after items belonging to Queen Latifah, msn.com reports.

The website says Queen Latifah, whose real name is Dana Owens, had more than $10,000 worth of jewelry reportedly stolen from her luxury villa in Tobago, an island resort in the Caribbean, according to the local paper, Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday.

Two gold rings, a gold chain and a silver ring were allegedly taken from singer's $1,000-a-night villa.

Tobago police told the paper they believe a staff member committed the theft. Local police have also reportedly questioned several employees of Stone Haven Villas.

"Investigators said the larceny seems to be an inside job and efforts are being made round the clock to make a breakthrough," acting Police Commissioner James Philbert told the paper.

According to the paper, the singer said the missing jewelry held sentimental value to her and she is willing to offer a reward for its return.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lewis favoured for Mariah musical role

MUSICAL Mariah Carey wants Leona Lewis to play her in a musical of her life, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Touch My Body singer has reportedly agreed to see her story immortalised in a stage show in New York's famous Broadway district and is said to be particularly keen to have the British star take on the lead role.

A source said: "Mariah's not sure if she'll star in it herself. If she doesn't, names being tossed around include High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens and Desperate Housewives actress Eva Longoria. But Mariah secretly likes the idea of Leona Lewis playing her." A spokesperson confirmed to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: Mariah is in talks for a Broadway musical to be made about her life in 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

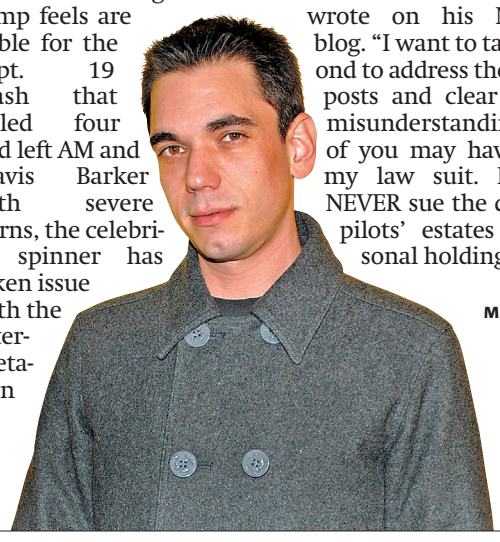
DJ AM explains lawsuit

LEGAL DJ AM wants us to know he's not taking the fatal plane crash he survived personally, people.com reports.

In response to reports about his recently filed negligence lawsuit against those his legal camp feels are liable for the Sept. 19 crash that killed four and left AM and Travis Barker with severe burns, the celebrity spinner has taken issue with the interpretation that he is suing the families of the deceased pilots.

"Normally I don't feel like I NEED to make a statement like this, but after I read some recently reported untruths I feel like I have to," AM, whose real name is Adam Goldstein, wrote on his MySpace blog. "I want to take a second to address the hurtful posts and clear up any misunderstandings any of you may have about my law suit. I would NEVER sue the deceased pilots' estates or personal holdings."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Criss proposed to Holly: Witness

RELATIONSHIPS Holly Madison and Criss Angel may be walking down the aisle, usmagazine.com reports.

The gossip site quotes and E! report that the couple — who have been dating since Madison's October split from Hugh Hefner — were spotted at Berger & Son Fine Jewelers in Las Vegas on Christmas Eve eyeing rings.

"They were looking at one ring and Criss said, 'Would you marry me?'" a spy told E!. "Holly didn't say anything. She just looked at him."

A rep for Madison admits Angel picked up bling for her — but says it's not for a wedding.

"Criss bought Holly a ring for her birthday," the rep said. "It's a flower ring."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Williams craves Timberlake duet

PEOPLE Michelle Williams would love to record a duet with Justin Timberlake, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Destiny's Child singer admires the SexyBack star's hard working attitude and also his gorgeous body.

She said: "I like Justin Timberlake. He is not only hot, he also has an amazing work ethic. If I met him I would ask him if we could do a duet. By duet, I mean make a record together."

Although Michelle has a soft spot for Justin, she admits she would rather date a more mature man but doesn't care what they look like.

"I want a guy who is older than me — so that rules out Justin, although he is mature for his age. I wouldn't want anyone older than 34. He doesn't have to be overly cute because I don't want him hogging the mirror. He would need to be funny, loyal and have his own career."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson to sing at Obama event?

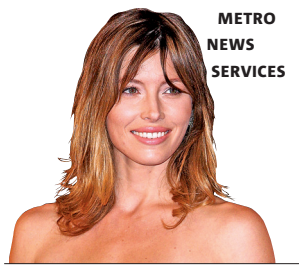
PERFORMANCE Jennifer Hudson may perform at Barack Obama's Inauguration, usmagazine.com is reporting. The performance would be her first since her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew were brutally murdered in Chicago last October. "Organizers want Jennifer to sing The Star-Spangled Banner at the Inauguration on January 20," a source tells the New York Post, which first reported the news. "She is from Chicago and a huge Obama supporter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Need a light? Just ask Biel

PEOPLE Jessica Biel carries a cigarette lighter even though she doesn't smoke, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I'm not a smoker, but I always feel really left out when everybody goes out to smoke, so I join them and light their cigarettes."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Costar praises Black's kissing

PEOPLE Cloris Leachman displays some serious PDA with Jack Black in an upcoming episode of The Office, usmagazine.com reports. "I have an intimate scene with Jack Black," Leachman told Entertainment Tonight. So is Black — 43 years her junior — a good smoocher? "Yeah!" she said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network 20 YEARS
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Today 70%
Light snow
-12° / -15°

Saturday
Partly cloudy
-9° / -16°

Sunday
Mainly sunny
-12° / -14°

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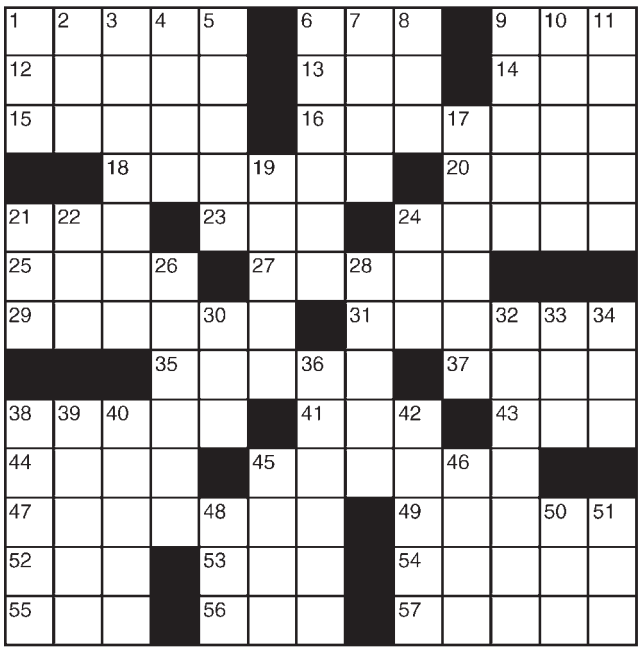

Crossword across

1 Quantities stolen
6 Boom times
9 Harvest goddess
12 Up to
13 Enthusiast
14 Torched
15 Mrs. Gorbachev
16 Render untraditionally
18 Incision implement
20 Leak slowly
21 Mueller's org.
23 State of India
24 Twangy
25 Lounge about
27 Unfriendly
29 EBBs collectively
31 Veer
35 Excuse
37 Stench
38 Story-telling brother
41 Scarlet
43 Wolfed down
44 Carry on
45 Breakfast choice
47 Put on a pedestal
49 Oust
52 Round Table address
53 La —, Bolivia
54 Bakery request
55 Plaything
56 Raw rock
57 Saccharine

Crossword down

1 "Ben- —"
2 Literary collection
3 Work with
4 Sax-playing Simpson
5 Word on the street?
6 Open
7 Green shot
8 Pigs' digs
9 Hodgepodges
10 Fast food choice
11 Bessemer product
17 Hammock occupant
19 Raccoon's cousin
21 Winter bug
22 — -relief
24 Without delay
26 Canine coat
28 Wickerwork willow
30 Freddy's street
32 Become aware of
33 Examine
34 — out a living
36 Pleasant wind
38 Mill fodder
39 TV's ancestor
40 Scrimshaw material
42 Gary Cooper role
45 Despot
46 Declare
48 Wall St. debut
50 Bee follower
51 Potent stick

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

8			6		9			
9	2						5	1
	5			4		8		
	9		8	3				4
		3				9		
7				6	1		3	
		2		7			8	
1	8						7	3
			3		8			6

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	M	S	■	C	O	I	L	■	A	R	I	D		
Y	A	M	■	O	N	T	O	■	N	O	L	O		
E	G	O	■	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T		
R	I	G	I	D	■	■	S	K	I	■	■	■		
■	■	■	N	O	V	A	■	E	L	B	O	W		
C	O	R	N	B	E	L	T	■	S	A	V	E		
A	K	A	■	A	R	B	O	R	■	B	A	S		
B	R	I	O	■	T	U	N	A	M	E	L	T		
S	A	L	S	A	■	M	E	T	E	■	■	■		
■	■	■	P	R	O	■	■	A	N	O	D	E		
H	E	A	R	T	F	E	L	T	■	B	A	R		
R	A	G	E	■	F	L	E	A	■	I	T	S		
S	T	A	Y	■	S	K	I	T	■	T	A	T		

8	5	1	9	3	6	4	7	2
9	7	2	4	5	8	3	1	6
4	6	3	1	2	7	9	5	8
6	1	8	5	9	2	7	3	4
5	2	4	3	7	1	6	8	9
7	3	9	8	6	4	5	2	1
1	4	5	7	8	9	2	6	3
3	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	7
2	9	7	6	1	3	8	4	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Poached Salmon with Dill Sauce

INGREDIENTS — FISH:
4 fresh or frozen and thawed salmon or halibut steaks, 3/4 inch (2 cm) thick (about 6 oz/175 g each)
1 cup dry white wine
1 small yellow onion, thickly sliced
2 lemon slices
4 sprigs parsley
4 whole black peppercorns

INGREDIENTS — DILL SAUCE:
1 tbsp (15 ml) butter or margarine
1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
2 tsp (10 ml) finely chopped fresh dill or 3/4 tsp (4 ml) dried dill weed
1/2 tsp (2 ml) sugar
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) salt
1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
1 teaspoon lemon juice

METHOD:
1. Rinse fish and pat dry. Poach fish: in large skillet, combine wine, onion, lemon slices, parsley and peppercorns. Bring to boil. Arrange salmon in a single layer in wine mixture. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, for 5 to 8 minutes or until fish flakes when tested with fork. Use slotted spatula to carefully remove salmon from the skillet; keep warm. Strain and reserve 1 cup (250 ml) cooking liquid.
2. For dill sauce: in small saucepan, melt butter over moderate heat. Whisk in flour, dill, sugar and salt, and cook for 1 minute or until bubbly. Add reserved cooking liquid. Cook, whisking constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Slowly stir about 1/2 cup (125 ml) hot mixture into egg yolk, then return to saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, for 1 to 2 minutes or until the mixture thickens (do not boil). Stir in lemon juice.
3. Spoon some dill sauce over salmon and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A larger-than-life mystery deepens. A drama queen is reaching critical mass. An elderly person can move you to tears.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Contact with a maniac will revive you. An ambiguous friend realizes his foolishness. A sweetheart wants to give you something special.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Give some thought to being more diligent. Don't refuse an offer that saves money. A daunting person will ask you for something precious.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Make sure that all loose ends are tied up. Time is wasted in mending someone's misery. Plans are made to clear the air.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Trust a friend to be honest with you. A message comes about an illness. Decisions are influenced by casual comments.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't give up on someone who has problems. There's a happy ending for a gullible guy. An important person is willing to work on a new project.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Be sincere with someone who is attentive. Ask questions about some entertaining surprises. You are too excitable for your own good.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Be true to yourself. A troubled person creates animosity. Don't disagree with a stranger who makes sense.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Be serious when dealing with an obstinate fool. Answer questions without joking. Be prepared to face a difficulty alone.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't waste a chance to discuss secrets. Someone pulls the rug out from under a worker. Frustration results from sticking to the rules.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
It's a good day to make a special request. Use your common sense with romantic interests. Avoid over-sensitivity at dinnertime.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A serious relationship continues after a setback. A man is excused for standing his ground. You'll make time for another project.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

1. Do damage to Old MacDonald's spread (1)
2. Coexist in a dragon's den (1)
3. Unfairly distort a puzzle hint (1)
4. Use a loom to make a shirt arm section (1)
5. Athenians' horror movie screams (1)
6. Red Cross founder Clara's kilt patterns (2)
7. Fighting hard to keep three balls in the air (2)

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word. To win $10, send your original rhymes with your definitions to this newspaper. All entries become the property of UFS, Inc.

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Thanks and $10 to Anita Gregory of Pasadena, CA for #6. Send your entry to this newspaper.

ANSWERS
1. HARM FARM 2. SHARE LAIR 3. SKEW CLUE 4. WEAVE SLEEVE 5. GREEKS SHRIEKS 6. BARTONS TARTANS 7. STRUGGLING JUGGLING

1-2-09

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MP3 PLAYERS
MAGNAVOX MP3 PLAYER — 2GB — DIRECT USB WITH FM TUNER — P/N MSA2025/37X — $12.99
REFURBISHED — PH2025
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REFURBISHED — SA0260

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SO3208

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IPOD FM TRANSMITTER — BLACK — $9.99 — REFURBISHED — GR9781
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